

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota**

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
360 Colborne Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102, and**

**January 14, 2026
3:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Uriah Ward, Chair.

2. ROLL CALL

Board of Education: J. Vue, Y. Carrillo, C. Franco, H. Henderson, U. Ward
Superintendent Stanley

E. Valliant arrived at 3:13 p.m.
C. Allen was absent.

K. Bergstrom, General Counsel; S. Dahlke, Assistant Clerk

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA

MOTION: Director Ward moved approval of the order of the main agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Henderson.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Absent
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Absent
Director Carrillo	Yes

**4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE CURRENT LEARNING ENVIRONMENT IN LIGHT OF
FEDERAL ENFORCMENT ACTIVITY IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA**

Superintendent Stanley then introduced this item. She noted that the current ICE activity has caused many students to miss school. She has received hundreds of emails from the community at the lack of security. She then recommended to change our learning environment and offer a temporary virtual learning option. While there is not an executive order by the Governor, we are not able to use anything other than SPPS

Online, that for safety reasons, we are able to go into a virtual learning model temporarily. These events are impacting every one of our schools other than SPPS Online.

Chair Ward noted that the next part of the conversation will be discussion on this item, followed by a vote on a motion. He also noted there are aspects of negotiation and the creation of the MOU that were shared in a closed session and cannot be discussed in this meeting.

Director Franco noted that it's important to acknowledge that thousands of folks across the city, especially students, protested at the capitol, and our young people are directly impacted. Our immigrant families and students are directly impacted by the continued actions of the federal government, and our students are stepping out of school because they feel so strongly about this issue. He is furious that we need to do this in this moment. He noted he expected to have the MOU to discuss and vote upon, he wanted to be clear that everyone needs to be absolutely be prepared to create the best plan that prioritizes literacy instruction, math instruction and prioritizes our students to make this the highest priority. It's important to say that our students are calling for that, our community is calling for that, and it is more than an online learning environment to be discussed.

Director Henderson requested a restatement of what the Board is able to do today, and the next steps.

Director Ward noted that there is a process to ensure everything is in MOU format to match what has been arrived at through discussion, but voting to give the authority on behalf of the Board to accept the MOU, so the Superintendent can move forward.

Chief Pratt-Cook noted that there were over seven hours in negotiations, we are still finalizing the memorandum of agreement, and cannot be shared until both parties have signed them. The agreement is there, and there are final changes, and expect that to be sent shortly. Until it is finalized, we are not able to discuss and share publicly.

Director Henderson noted questions about communications to families and next steps. Dr. Stanley noted that the process for families is set. We set the standards that students will have active learning experiences, and it was a collaborative, co-created process. The aspects that are not finalized do not change in and of itself, in the service model – and there many be things that enhance it. We are looking to send a communication to the community to let them know this has been agreed upon, and the impacts of that and what to do to ensure our community is prepared for this model, and next steps in how they would sign their children up for a temporary learning model. Communications are set to be sent once it is approved by the Board.

Director Henderson noted that families who have already made the choice to stay home, and the 15-day drop, and information to share to protect students and to remain in their school community, and coming up to the 15-day or close to that date. Dr. Stanley noted that she has been in contact with the Commissioner, and ways to support students, including a waiver. Our goal is for students to have the least disruptive experience, and she believes this would be the least disruptive. We do have families who have chosen to move to SPPS Online as well. For students who have met the mark, she has been in conversation with the Commissioner, and they are working on it, but we are working in ways to support students.

Director Henderson also noted questions about families who made the choice to move to Online School, and there are now options at their home school – are they able to transition back? One of the reasons is the pieces around families here language and culture programs are embedded in their school community, and the transition to Online School and losing those, is an inconvenience. Dr. Stanley noted that we are

trying to create flexibility for families, and acknowledged this issue. We will know this information soon, and staff may have moved over already. There are complex pieces to discuss.

Dr. Stanley noted the ultimate goal was to keep students and families in mind, and to not create additional barrier for our students.

Director Vue noted questions on the process, including for the emergency meeting and notices to post the meeting. General Counsel noted she is not at liberty to discuss at a public meeting. He also requested steps to conduct an emergency meeting. There was an emergency topic, and there are many different issues, and noticed an emergency meeting. It is not a closed session and precludes us from discussing certain matters. He noted questions that at what point was it discussed that this MOA needed to be voted upon – it was worked on for seven hours. Dr. Stanley noted that in typical experiences, MOUs and MOAs are not voted on, but because this significantly changes the structure of instruction in our district, it is important to come before the Board. Director Franco noted questions about the voting on this item at a Regular Meeting, but because it dramatically changes the way we do business, that is the rationale for bringing it to the Board? Yes, and they are typically included in the consent agenda. General Counsel also noted in the aspect of good governance, that a shift like this that was not considered other than the rise in recent federal activity, that it precludes us all to be on the same page. Director Franco noted this is not a consistent practice, and there are MOAs with bargaining groups to ensure those are happening and adapting as needed, and they come before the Board in the consent agenda. Director Vue noted questions on the timeline for when this was brought up that the Board needed to vote on this item. Director Ward noted it was brought up by Director Vue the morning of January 14 and it was then asked to General Counsel. He again asked if the MOA needed to be voted upon? Dr. Stanley noted it could go to a Regular Meeting through consent, and bargaining groups are always working on agreements, but it is not typically something that is acted upon. Chief Pratt-Cook noted that typically MOAs do not come before the Board, but contracts are voted on by the Board with modifications to the collective bargaining agreements. General Counsel noted that from a best governance practices, it seems unwise and a disservice to this Board in making this change to not vote on this to serve our families. Director Vue requested to hear more from his colleagues. Director Valliant noted she believes this should come before the Board, because this is far from a typical situation and there are changes to the way in which we are going forward with instruction in service of safety to the community. If it's not illegal to vote, there's no reason to not – to show community in support and important to vote in this change, and for the reasons for the change. Director Carrillo noted the change to distance learning, and assumed a similar situation to those board members at the time in March 2020 when the Governor issued the emergency. The landscape is different, and feels it is important that we vote on this at an emergency meeting because we are changing aspects of educational delivery, and we need to give the superintendent the ability to do that. He also noted this is in relation to the B.I.G.G. goals and a direct response to be involved in the student experience and family experience, through the lens of an emergency.

MOTION: Director Ward moved to approve that the Superintendent and/or designee has the authority to enter into an agreement for a 2025-2026 school year temporary service learning model. The motion was seconded by Director Carrillo.

Director Vue noted that he will be voting no because the MOU is not in front of him, and as a principal of his, he does not know the costs, composition of educators in this work, students participating in this, and there is not information to make this decision.

Director Franco noted that three board members were present during negotiations, and asked questions about budget, composition of education, service delivery models, and the complexities of what this may

bring. Community is telling us this is what they need, and he wishes the MOU was before the Board, but trusts that besides the few updates in formatting, he trusts that this will enhance the service delivery and the student's needs and instruction is the top priority, with budget as a high consideration.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	No
Director Allen	Absent
Director Carrillo	Yes

5. ADJOURNMENT

Director Ward moved to adjourn the meeting; Director Franco seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Absent
Director Carrillo	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

For clarity and to facilitate research, these minutes reflect the order of the original Agenda and not necessarily the time during the meeting the items were discussed.

Prepared and submitted by:

Sarah Dahlke

Assistant Clerk, St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education